

Vespers Propers on the Evening of the  
Fifth Sunday of the Great Fast  
March 22, 2015

The holy venerable martyr Nicon and his students martyred with him fled the persecutions in Palestine to a refuge in Sicily, where they were put to death under the emperor Decius. (250)

*Supplement for The Order of Vespers on Sunday Evening for the Sunday of Forgiveness (Cheesefare Sunday) and the Sundays of the Great Fast.*

Lamp-lighting Psalms

Psalm 140 - *Tone 8 samohlasen*

O Lord, I have cried to you, hear me. Hear me, O Lord! O  
Lord, I have cried to you, hear me; re - ceive the voice of my pray'r when I  
call up - on you. Hear me, O Lord! Let my  
pray'r ascend to you like in - - - cense and the lift - ing up of my hands  
like an eve - ning sac - ri - - fice. Hear me, O Lord!

O Lord, set a guard before my mouth  
and set a seal on the door of *my* lips.  
Let not my heart be inclined to evil,  
nor make excuses for sins I *commit*.

Let me never share in sinners' feasting.

If a just man strikes or reproves me it *is* kindness  
but let the oil of the wicked not anoint my head.

Let my prayer be ever against *their* malice.

The princes were thrown down by the side of the rock;

then they understood that my words *were* kind.

As a millstone is shattered to pieces on the ground,

so their bones were strewn at the mouth of *the* grave.

To you, Lord God, my eyes are turned;

in you I take refuge; spare *my* soul!

From the trap they have laid for me keep me safe;

keep me from the snares of those who *do* evil.

Let the wicked fall into the traps they have set

while I pursue my way *unharmed*.

#### **Psalm 141**

With all my voice I cry to the Lord,

with all my voice I entreat *the* Lord.

I pour out my trouble before him;

I tell him all my distress while my spirit faints *within* me.

But you, O Lord, know my path.

On the way where I shall walk they have hidden a snare to *entrap* me.

Look on my right and see:

there is no one who takes *my* part.

I have no means of escape,

not one who cares for *my* soul.

I cry to you, O Lord.

I have said: "You are my refuge, all I have in the land of *the* living."

Listen, then, to my cry

for I am in the depths of *distress*.

Rescue me from those who pursue me

for they are stronger *than* I.

(on 10)

Cantor: 

Bring my soul out of this pris-on and then I shall praise your name.

**Stichera of Repentance in the tone of the week - Tone 8 samohlasen**

<sup>10</sup>  


Un-ceas-ingly the angels sing to you, O King and Mas-ter. I fall before you



like the Publi-can and cry out: O God, cleanse me and have mer-cy on me!

(on 9)

Cantor: 

A-round me the just will assem-ble be-cause of your good-ness to me.

<sup>9</sup>  


You are im-mor-tal, O my soul! Do not be overcome by the waves of life,



but rise up and, to your Benefac-tor, cry out: O God cleanse me and have



mer-cy on me!

(on 8)

Cantor: 

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord; Lord hear my voice!

8

Give me the gift of tears, O Lord, as once you gave them to the sin-ful  
 wo - man, and let me pour them o - ver your feet, for they have  
 turned me away from the path of er - ror. I will of - fer you a sweet-smell - ing  
 oint - ment, the con - ver - sion of my heart and the puri - ty of my life,  
 so that I too may hear your gen - tle voice: Go in peace, for your faith has  
 saved you.

*Cantor:* (on 7)

Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my plead - - ing.

7

When I look at my man - y e - vil deeds, and when I think of the fear - some  
 judg - ment, I am seized with fright and take re - fuge in you; O Lord

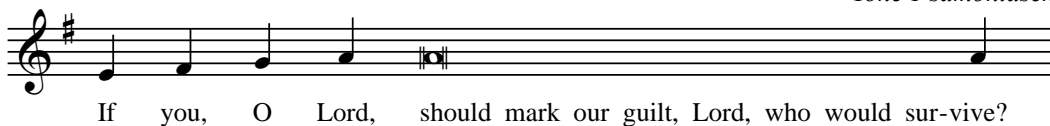


and Lover of us all, do not de - spise me; you a - lone are with - out sin.



Be - fore the end, grant me con - tri - tion and save me.

*Tone 1 samohlasen*

Cantor: 

If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord, who would sur - vive?



But with you is found for - give - ness: for this we re - vere you.

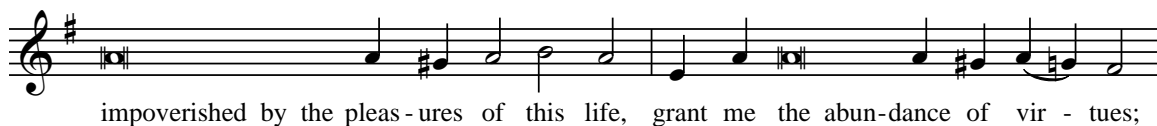
**Stichera of the fifth Sunday of the Great Fast - Tone 1 podoben: Prechval'nij mučenicy**

⑥ 

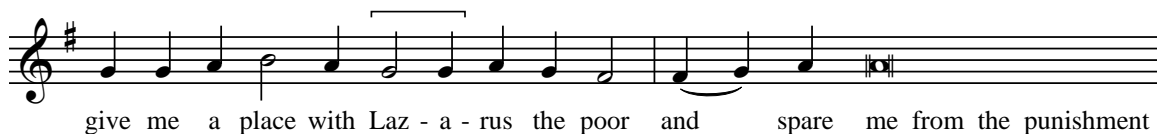
E - ven though you were rich, O Christ, you be - came poor to en - rich us mor - tals



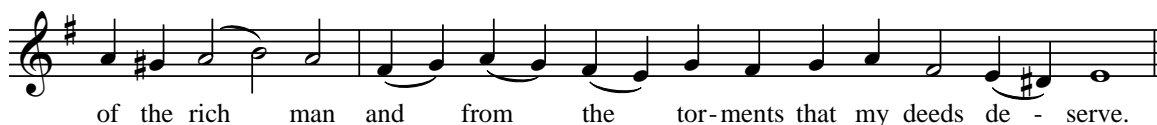
with the treas - ure of your im - mor - tal light. And e - ven though I have been



impoverished by the pleas - ures of this life, grant me the abun - dance of vir - tues;



give me a place with Laz - a - rus the poor and spare me from the punishment



of the rich man and from the tor - ments that my deeds de - serve.

*Cantor:* 

My soul is wait - ing for the Lord. I count on his word.



My soul is longing for the Lord more than watch-man for day - break.

⑤ 

I have a - - massed treas-ures of lux - u - ry and e - vil deeds; tak-ing



de-light in the pleas-ures of this life, I have be-come liable to the fires of Ha-des.



My spir-it knows the poverty of Laz - a - rus, for I have been abandoned at



the gate of good deeds. Have mer-cy on me, O Lord, wretch that I am.

*Cantor:* 

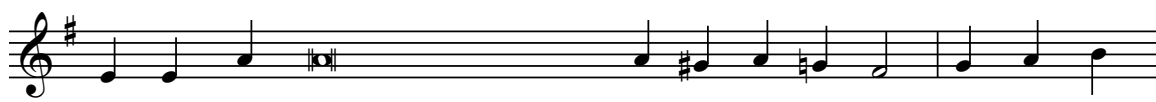
Let the watch-man count on day - break and Is - ra - el on the Lord.

④ 

With fer - vor, let us be-gin the sixth week of the ho - ly Fast; O faith-ful,



let us sing a hymn of praise to the Lord in prep-a - ra-tion for the feast of Palms.



For he comes in glory and the power of his di - vin - i - ty; he draws near



to Jerusa-lem to van - quish death. There - fore, let us prepare symbols of victory,



the palms of our virt - ues, that we may cry: Ho - san - na to the Cre - a - tor



of the world!

*Tone 4 samohlasen*



Be - cause with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemp - tion,

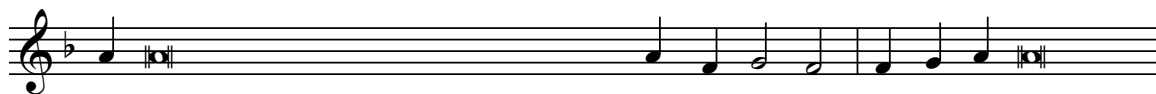


Is - rael indeed he will re - deem from all its in - i - qui - ty.

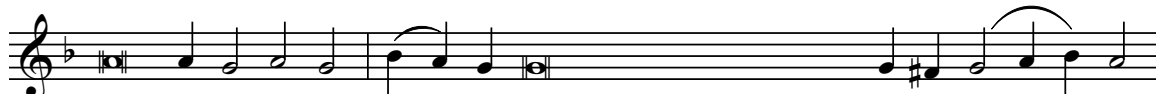
**Stichera of the holy venerable-martyr Nikon and companions - *Tone 4 samohlasen***



Hav - ing submitted the impetu - ous - ness of the flesh and the plea - sures of the bo - dy



to the bridle of temperance through faith, O bles - sed Ni - con, you set out fully armed



against the E - ne - my. You tri - umphed by the power of the Ho - ly Spi - rit.



Then O vener-a - ble fa-ther, you be came the lead-er of monks fol - lowing your wise



and di - vine teach - - - ing.



*Cantor:*

Praise the Lord, all you na-tions, ac-claim him all you peo - ples!



Ri - sing in the East like the sun, O bles-sed fa - ther Ni - con, you filled



the whole world with the light of your mir - a - cles, lead - ing af - ter you the choir



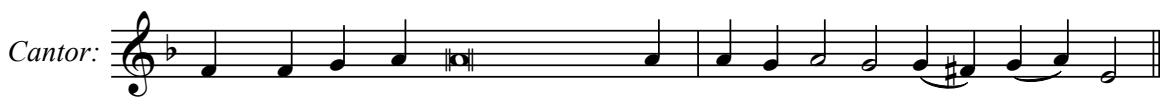
of your companions like ra - diant stars. Hav - ing strug - gled to - ge - ther val - iant - ly,



you were given over to the sword, com - mending your spirits into the hands of the



al - might - y Lord.



*Cantor:*

Strong is the love of the Lord for us; he is faith - ful for - ev - er.



Nei - ther hunger not dan - - ger, nor na - ked - ness nor beat - ings,

nor violent death could separate you from the love of Christ, O admir-a - ble mar - tyr.

But, like lambs following their shepherd to the slaugh - ter, you came from the West,

bear - ing your crowns, to the nev - er end - ing rest in the King - dom of God.

*Cantor:*   
Glo - ry to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spir - it,

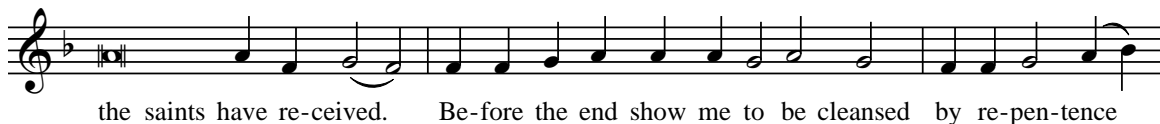
now and ev - er and for - ev - er. A - men.

**Theotokion**

O all - ho - ly Bride of God, de - liver my lowly soul from con - dem - na - tion

and griev - ous trans - gres - sions, and by your sup - plications re - lease it from death,

and grant that I may receive the justification on the day of death which the councils of



the saints have re-ceived. Be-fore the end show me to be cleansed by re-pen-tence

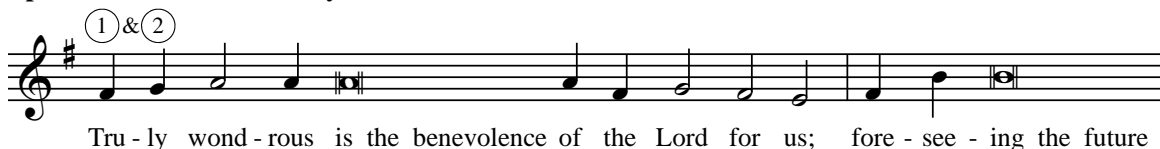


and the shed - ding of tears.

*The service continues with the Hymn of the Evening, "O joyful light," on page 8.*

## Aposticha

### Aposticha of the fifth Sunday of the Great Fast - Tone 1 samohlasen



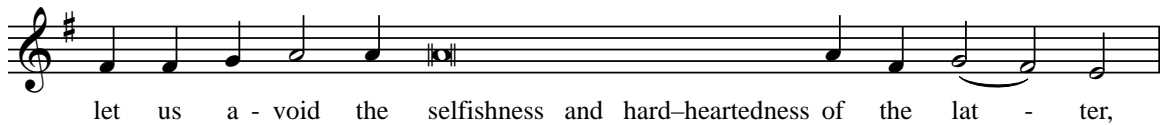
Tru - ly wond - rous is the benevolence of the Lord for us; fore - see - ing the future



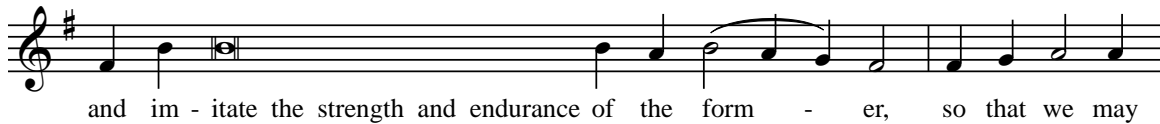
as though it were al-read - y pres - ent. He set be - fore us the parable of



Lazarus and the wick - ed rich man. Con - sid - ering the end of each of them,



let us a - void the selfishness and hard - heartedness of the lat - ter,



and im - itate the strength and endurance of the form - er, so that we may

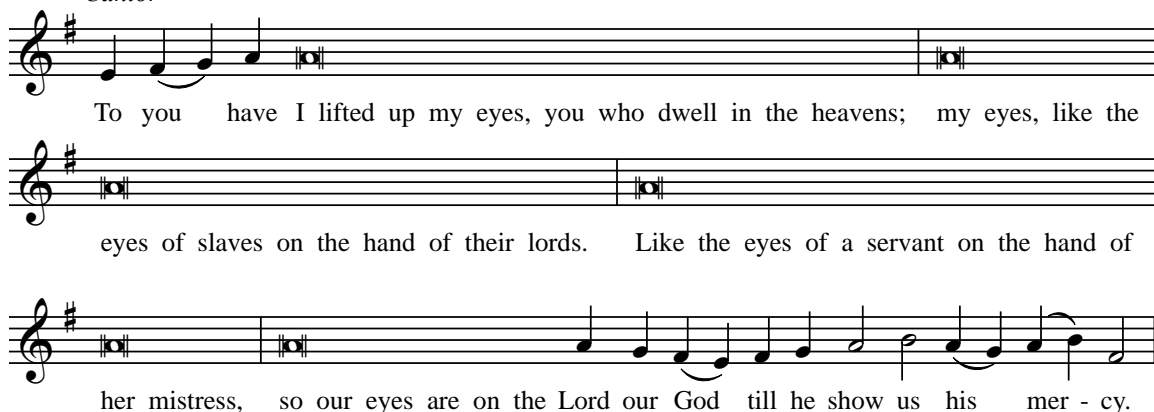


cry out with him in the bos-om of A - bra - ham: O Lord and just



Judge, glo - ry to you!

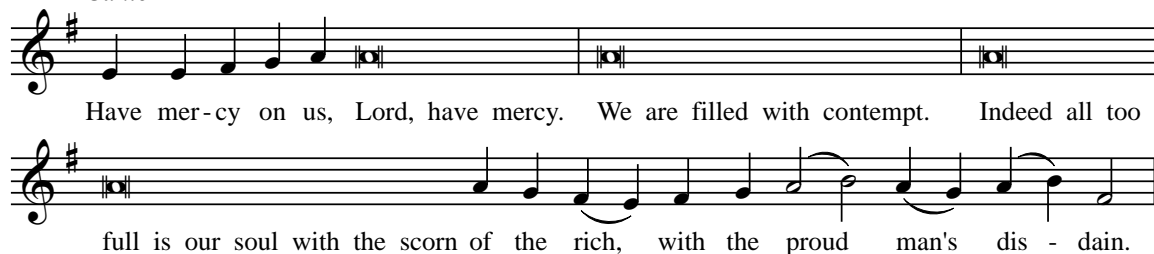
*Cantor*



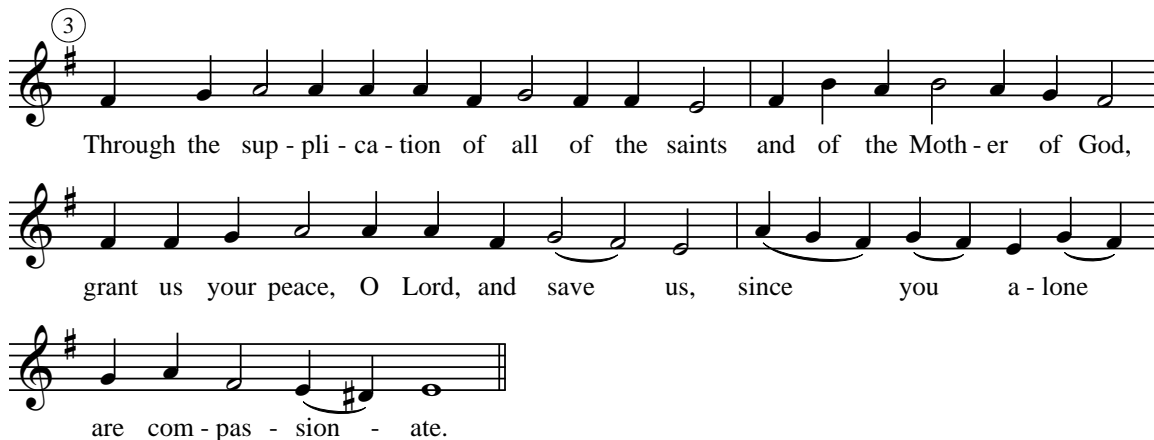
To you have I lifted up my eyes, you who dwell in the heavens; my eyes, like the eyes of slaves on the hand of their lords. Like the eyes of a servant on the hand of her mistress, so our eyes are on the Lord our God till he show us his mer - cy.

*All repeat, "Truly wondrous if the benevolence of the Lord for us..."*

*Cantor*



Have mer - cy on us, Lord, have mercy. We are filled with contempt. Indeed all too full is our soul with the scorn of the rich, with the proud man's dis - dain.



③  
Through the sup - pli - ca - tion of all of the saints and of the Moth - er of God, grant us your peace, O Lord, and save us, since you a - lone are com - pas - sion - ate.

*Cantor*

Glo - ry to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spir-it, now and ev - er  
and for - ev - er. A - - - men.

**Aposticha theotokion**

O joy of the an-gels in heav - en and pro - tec - tress of the hu - man race  
on earth, save us who seek refuge in you, O pure Vir - gin; for, next to God,  
our hope is in you, O The - o - to - - - kos.

*The service continues with the Prayer of St. Simeon on page 13.*